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BODY SURFING

by Paul Rademacher

A big part of body surfing is waiting: waiting for the right wave, of exactly the right shape and power, breaking at precisely the right place. It's as much sensing as seeing, for after a while you develop a "feel" for it that can only be learned through experience. In the waiting is a oneness with sea and wind and sky that is as precious as the ride itself—a communion with the forces of nature.

But beyond that, timing is the key. Start swimming too early and you'll miss the power of the wave to sweep you along; too late and you'll drop straight down from the heights of the curl as the crashing surf drives you into the bottom, violently twisting and wrenching your limbs as if they were made of seaweed.

But if you catch it just right, you will soar down the slope of the wave gathering so much momentum that your body will skim the surface, bouncing and skipping like a flat stone heaved expertly onto the stillness of a pond. And then you'll be far enough in front of the wave that it will crash in behind you harmlessly and then gather you up gently in the white foam for a second ride.

Believe me, when that happens there is no way to stifle a shout of glee or to suppress a grin as bright as the sun. It is a moment of perfection.

So many who come through TMI also develop a "feel" for, and sensitivity to, this thing we call consciousness. And, like body surfing, many of us seem to be sensing a new wave of consciousness heading our way. It's something we've been waiting for, though we only perceive its outlines dimly.

Each of us has felt the thrill of riding waves of awareness that have propelled us on adventures, perceptions, and insights that had previously occurred solely in dreams. But once we have taken the ride of direct experience, we know that there is indeed much more to us than the physical body. I'm convinced that these journeys into the rich dimensions of mystery are the first inklings of a wave that will sweep humanity into the next stage of evolution.

Often, one of the signs of transition is a period of chaos. Old systems, assumptions, and cultural norms start to break down. Severing ties with the past throws everything into a state of uncertainty until the "new" starts to emerge and eventually stabilizes.

The chaos is just the beginning of a gathering wave of new energy. Right now, many sense that chaos and are frightened by it because they don't have a context for understanding what's going on or because they haven't had the experience to develop a "feel" for the times.

To be too far in front of the wave is to be ungrounded and to lose touch with the forces of nature. Being too far behind can put you out of sync and lead to a frightening experience: clinging to a dissolving past.

But to catch it just right means a ride of wonder, joy, and awe.

As we move to the future, TMI will be a place where people will continue to get a "feel" for a new way of being. But we will also seek to explore the nature of this new wave and to interpret it to the world.

At present we are toying with the idea of creating a new *EXPLORERS* program that will focus on exploring such questions as: What is the nature of the next stage of human evolution? How will consciousness be different? Is there a new language or symbol system that can more adequately express the nature of this new "wave" sensed by so many of us?

This idea is a dream that seems to be gathering energy. You'll be informed of details as they unfold.

Meanwhile, I hope those of you who are interested will turn your sensing and intuition to this "Big" question. This will be a community project designed—not just for our own benefit—but for all of humanity. Perhaps, working together, we will find a way to catch this wave with exquisite timing.

Can you feel it? The wind has shifted. Narrow your eyes and look. There is a wave forming on the horizon.

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